



STATE OF WASHINGTON
VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PO BOX 41150 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1150 • 360-725-2167

Meeting Minutes

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| Meeting attended by (VAAC Member) | Charles Wharton, Bob Wallace & Bob Garrison |
| Date | October 18, 2018 |
| Time | 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. |
| Location | American Legion Post 91 721 E. Fairhaven Avenue, Burlington, WA |
| Call to Order | Meeting called to order by Bob Garrison Invocation by Charles Wharton Pledge of Allegiance led by Bob Wallace |
| Welcome & Introductions: | Welcome and Introduction – Bob Garrison |
| Presentations | <p>WDVA Update – Gary Condra</p> <p>US DVA Secretary Wilkie visited Washington State and had the opportunity to talk to Alfie Alvarado, Director of WDVA and Governor Jay Inslee via phone. Issues discuss between Alfie and Secretary Wilkie are: Continuing efforts to eliminate veterans homelessness, addressing behavioral health issues and transition, 2020 Census – the need to have a veteran component question to identify veterans, veterans in agriculture, rural health, long term support of state veterans homes.</p> <p>Last year, WDVA along with DSHS TBI Council launched a cell phone app for smart phones called Max Impact. The app provide veterans with relaxation techniques/tips and various exercise techniques. Since its launch – there were 1,665 downloads (237 users, licked on the icon that would take them directly to the Veterans Crisis Line and 1,644 click on the Provider Finder page that would lead them directly to TBI providers and/or experts in their respective areas, 365 contacted WDVA directly. The app is available in Google Play Store or the I-Tune</p> <p>Employment – Randi Bowman</p> <p>WorkSource is available to everyone in Skagit County at: www.worksourcewa.com</p> <p>Veterans also have priority service by Disabled Veterans Outreach Coordinator or Local Veterans Employment Representatives in the Office. They can help reduce barriers to work by helping with transportation, wardrobe, work-required tools or</p> |

other gear. WorkSource also partners with WDVA to provide the Veterans Innovations Program and Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program benefits to veterans who qualify. (more info at www.dva.wa.gov)

Other programs include the YesVets hiring initiative – www.yesvets.org

Tahoma National Cemetery – Jennifer Dehorty



WDVA 10-18-18
Outreach.pptx

The National Cemetery Administration's history dates back to the Civil War when in 1862 Congress authorized President Lincoln to purchase grounds for use as national cemeteries. Fourteen were established that year. Previously soldiers were buried where they fell. Today, the National Cemetery Administration manages 136 national cemeteries, one national Veterans' burial ground, 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites in 40 states and Puerto Rico; and the state and tribal Veterans cemetery program. Their mission is: Honor Veterans and their families with final resting places in national shrines and lasting tributes that commemorate their service and sacrifice to our Nation. . Last year (FY17), Tahoma interred 3320 Veterans and eligible family members, 75% of interments are cremations. All veterans with qualifying discharges are offered the dignity of committal or memorial services in a national cemetery. At no cost to the family, burial at a national cemetery includes use of a committal shelter for services, the gravesite, grave liner (vault), opening and closing of the grave, a headstone or marker, and perpetual care as part of a national shrine. In addition to providing burial space, NCA also offers other ways to commemorate Veterans—through Memorial Programs Service. Families can also receive a Presidential Memorial Certificate, expressing the Nation's gratitude and honoring the deceased's memory. Last year, they delivered nearly 618,000 certificates to loved ones. Under the "Corey Shea Act", Congress recently extended burial benefits to certain parents of eligible service members buried in a VA cemetery— "A parent who died after October 13, 2010, and whose biological or adoptive child was a service member who 1. Died on or after October 7, 2001, as a hostile casualty or as result of a training – related injury **AND** is already interred in a national cemetery, in a gravesite with available space for additional interment **AND** at time of parent's death, service member had no spouse, surviving spouse, or child who is buried, or who upon death, may be eligible for a burial in a national cemetery.

https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/docs/factsheets/Planning_Legacy_Booklet.pdf

WDVA Veterans Services Division – Steve Gill

WDVA is a full service state agency that assist veterans and their families or survivors. We advocate and aggressively pursues all federal and state benefits earned. Our office is staffed with qualified serviced officer to assist veterans and their families in accessing their benefits earned: VA Disability Compensation Claim, VA Pension or Widows Pension, Aid and Attendance, Health Care Benefits. Using a case management approach, our staff attend to the needs of veterans by providing behavioral health counseling, referral services.

VA Puget Shound – Michael Tadych

Choice Program is part of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA). This program began to cover non-VVA care for eligible veterans enrolled in VA Healthcare. Veterans have option to receive non-VA health care rather than waiting for a VA appointment or if specialty care is not available at the VA. This program is designed to supplement the care the veterans received at a VA facility not replace or limit the care. Use of this program is totally voluntary - no veteran will be required to seek care in the community using the card. Any veteran currently eligible for VA care will retain that eligibility even if he/she will use the CHOICE program to obtain care in the community.

For more information visit the Choice Website at: www.gov.opa/choiceact

CHOICE Billing Questions/Collection Issues: 877-881-7618

CHOICE Line: 866-606-8198

Veterans Assistance Fund – Sarah

Community Action of Skagit County – this is a one stop shop for veterans and their families that resides in Skagit County. Skagit recently hired a County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO). CVSO assist veterans with:

- Veterans Assistance Benefits – including acquiring their DD214, medical records, personnel records, verification of military service
- Disability Compensation and Pension Claims
- Elderly & Disabled Veteran and Widow Program – provide assistance in aid and attendance, provide assistance for household benefits, assist surviving spouse with burial, disability indemnity compensation and widow pension. Assist with VA health care benefits
- Veteran Assistance Fund (VAF) – assist veterans during emergency situation and assist with gas vouchers, bus passes, clothing vouchers, food vouchers and motel vouchers, rent, utility and other crisis intervention. VAF also offers a one-on-one coaching. VAF hours of operation is from 9:00 – 5:00 – Monday to Friday and also by calling 360-588-5769

Behavioral Health – Bridget Cantrell

http://www.dva.wa.gov/sites/default/files/09%20Sept%202018_PTSD_Provider_List_0.pdf (WDVA Provider List)

Bridget is a contracted counselor with WDVA and USDVA. She provides counseling service for veterans and/or their families that resides in Skagit, Island and Whatcom Counties. She can be reach at 360-714-1525

Community Veterans Engagement Board (CVEB)Mortenson

Community Veterans Engagement Board (CVEB) are independent community based organizations that are comprised of a collaborative network of veterans

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| | <p>advocates, resources and other stakeholders who organize in the local community to improve outcomes for veterans, service members and their communities to create a Veteran Friendly Communities. Ultimate goals for CVEB are: enable veterans, service members and their families, caregivers and survivors the opportunity to voice their opinions and provide feedbacks, enhance the veterans experience, improve outcomes, develop local solutions, ease access to all resources available to veterans within their respective communities, engage US DVA to better understand and implement strategies for local communities.</p> |
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